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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 799
By Walker

A RESOLUTION to commend Representative Shirley Powell Duer
for her honorable and astute service to the
people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, our former colleague, Representative Shirley Powell Duer, is one such
person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Duer is a highly respected citizen of Crossville and Cumberland
County and, throughout her life, she has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the
highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, born in Meigs County, she attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery,
Alabama, and graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science
Degree in Political Science; and

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WHEREAS, possessing a deep commitment to the welfare and prosperity of her fellow citizens, she has been deeply involved in public service; she studied at the famed John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Lady Duer was elected to represent House District 25 in the 92nd Tennessee General Assembly; over the next sixteen years, she would represent her constituents with acumen and alacrity as an extremely gifted and dedicated legislator; and

WHEREAS, while serving on Capitol Hill, Representative Duer quickly earned the respect and admiration of her legislative colleagues, and she was a tireless worker on behalf of her constituents in House District 25; and

WHEREAS, Representative Duer's leadership brought many benefits to her District and this State; among her many accomplishments, she worked to make much needed road and bridge improvements a reality, precipitated several upgrades for the Cumberland Mountain State Park, promoted tourism and the Cumberland County Playhouse, secured funding for the Cumberland County Campus of Roane State Community College, and was instrumental in the passage of the Public School Nurse Act; and

WHEREAS, she distinguished herself among her peers through exemplary service as Republican Whip in the 94th through 96th Tennessee General Assemblies and as Republican Caucus Chair in the 97th General Assembly; she was also selected as a Delegate to the 1988 Republican National Convention; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the General Assembly, this outstanding public servant was a Delegate and served as Secretary to the 1977 Constitutional Convention and was Director of Governor Lamar Alexander's Cookeville Office in 1978-1979; and

WHEREAS, Lady Duer is active in numerous important civic and community organizations and has participated in Tennessee Leadership, the Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce, the American Business Women's Association, the Cumberland County Association of Retarded Persons, the Cumberland County Farm Bureau, the American Legion

Auxiliary, the Cumberland County Republican Women, the Cumberland County Medical Society Auxiliary, and the Crossville Exchange Club; and

WHEREAS, she has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of her outstanding character and public service; she was honored with the Golden Book of Deeds in 2000 and was named Crossville's Woman of the Year in 2001; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor in Crossville and in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, Lady Duer's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, she was a valuable member of the committee that worked assiduously to organize Crossville's Year-Long Centennial Celebration; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Duer cherishes the deep love and companionship she shares with her husband, Dr. Carl Duer, their three children, Shelly, Libby, and Tommy and their four granddaughters; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Duer is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Representative Shirley Powell Duer for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.